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"Oh Magic Crystal Ball, Which Lake Shall We Fish Today?"

For some people, this is an easy decision. "I'm staying on Island Lake; we'll fish Island.", or, "I live on Rest Lake; this is where we'll fish today."

For myself, this decision is much tougher. Do I return to the lake I fished yesterday? Do I go to the lake I fished last year at this time? Or, maybe my customer wants to fish a particular lake. Do I go there or do I try to discourage it because I know conditions aren't right? If all else fails, get out the darts and throw 1 or 2 darts at a map of our area - wherever it hits, we fish.

There are many factors that help me determine which lake I'm fishing each day.

Wind is a #1 factor - for example, a 20 to 30 MPH wind makes it almost impossible to fish mid-lake bars. High winds automatically dictate smaller lakes such as Jag, Little Crooked, Round or larger lakes with high shorelines on the windward side or lakes with islands or bays like Rest, White Sand or the Flambeau Flowage.

Wind direction is also a prime factor. A warm SW wind would send me to a lake like Dead Pike where boat control and presentation are key factors. If the wind were N or NE and I was on Dead Pike, my customers would be casting into the wind over the back of my boat and I would have to move in so close to the weeds that the walleye would be spooked and gone.

Water clarity is also a big factor. For example, the rock bars in Clear Lake will produce 2#+ walleye when the water turns green. Until then, most fish will be caught in the weeds or during the evening and on cloudy days. In 1984, the lake turned green in early June and the fish were hitting all season; however, it usually turns in mid July or early August.

I also keep records that I repeatedly call on to see what conditions were in previous years, and what lake I was fishing on. In the past 10 years, I've fished on 22 different lakes during the month of July.

Another excellent source of information is to keep track of stocking reports as

(continued on Page 4)

SIZE LIMITS -

DO THEY REALLY IMPROVE FISHING?

The objectives of placing size limits on fish that may be kept by fisherman are to maximize yields, prevent over-harvest, maintain favorable growth and reproduction, and to sustain quality fishing.

Minimum size limits are used to insure that adequate numbers of fish reach adult size to spawn at least one time. In implementing regulations of this type, it is ASSUMED that the fish population exhibit good growth, have a low reproductive rate, low natural mortality, and high angling mortality. In slow growing populations, a minimal size limit or reduced harvest would increase competition and cause even slower growth and higher mortality from natural causes. No benefit would result. Overall yields of catchable size fish would decrease instead of increase.

If you can recall - Northern Wisconsin once had a 13" size limit, which was suppose to increase the number of larger fish that were recruited into the fishery. DNR studies at Pike, Round, Butternut, Escanaba and numerous other lakes showed that it did just the opposite. Fish Management Report #96 of Butternut Lake said "The production of larger 16" walleye & above was low. That portion of the walleye population below 13" was exceedingly large and exhibited slow growth. In effect, a size bottleneck at 13" had resulted. Growth improved somewhat as the walleyes attained larger sizes. Competition from the large population of sublegal walleyes undoubtedly played an important role in depressing these growth rates."

The 13" size limit also put more pressure on the larger walleye thus further decreasing what was already in short supply. Again quoting from the Butternut Lake report "Protection of spawning females, whether needed or not, was not accomplished by a 13" size limit, since in fact, fishing pressure on mature females was greater with the size limit than without it." When the size limit was removed, two positive things happened. First, some of the pressure was removed from the larger fish so their numbers could build, and secondly the growth rate of the fish increased. In short, too much pressure on older fish makes for a fishery with mostly small walleye.

In the Butternut Lake report, Biologists Gerry Bever and Jim Lealos summarized by saying that a lake population of Walleyes "can be made up of large numbers of small fish, smaller numbers of large fish or some desirable balance in between."

(continued on Page 5)

~ ~ **MANITOWISH WATERS** ~ ~

Bob McClellan - Guide - Newsletter Publisher
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June fishing was on and off on the Manitowish Chain. The warm weather sent water surface temperatures to anywhere from 68° - 75° and the weed growth exploded in Clear, Fawn, Stone, Alder, Wild Rice, Little Manitowish and also in the river channels. Leeches and Night crawlers were the number one bait to use, either on a 1/16-oz. fluorescent jig or on a slip bobber rig.

Clear Lake produced some very nice walleye, in June, by using jigs and leeches or night crawlers in the evening and night crawlers suspended on slip bobbers over coon-tail in 6' to 10' of water during the day. The rock bars were slow, but once the algae bloom takes place and the water turns green in color, this will be your best fishing lake in the Manitowish chain. Fish the rocks at 15' to 25' in July and also your weed edges in 8' to 12' of water.

Fawn and **Stone** lakes presented some nice crappie action in June and also some walleye action. The weeds are well developed in both lakes. Fawn and Stone will both produce a lot of musky action in July. Use light bucktails and surface baits. Panfish action on worms and small jigs is usually good all of July in the cabbage weeds. Don't overlook the largemouth bass. Try white twisters on the outside edges of the weeds in **Stone** and also the drowned wood on the west shore, out from Fox Island for walleye. (Also try the weed patches on the left as you enter the river mouth to **Rest**, on **Stone Lake**, for walleye.)

Island Lake was slow in June for walleye, except in the evening - when they were catching them by the Manitowish River Inlet and also on rocks and sand at 10' to 15', on leeches and night crawlers. Several nice musky were caught in June, but July always produces a number of nice fish. For Walleye, **Island** can be an excellent lake in July. Fish the rocks at 12' to 20' on over-cast days and also the old cribs on the west shoreline.

If you're looking for large fish, **Manitowish** produced some nice musky in June and will be an excellent lake in July. Work the deeper water off the sunken islands, using natural or black and white bucktails. Using pikie minnows and Eddie baits work the 30' to 40' of water about 6' to 15' deep for suspended fish.

Manitowish produced some nice walleye in June. Good weed growth was holding fish to the left and right of the entrance to **Little Manitowish** and also the cabbage at 5' to 10' in **Little Manitowish**. In July, work the rocks at 15' to 25' for nice walleye. Also work the sand points.

And, try the wood on the west end.

Little Star was slow, but don't overlook the wood on the deep shores in early morning and late evening for walleye and smallmouth bass in July. Also, the rocks at 25' to 30' for walleye. Fish the deep shores and sunken islands for suspended fish.

Alder was excellent for walleye in June and will continue in July due to the good weed growth and dark water. Also, the rocks should produce nice fish in July, as well as will the weeds - use slip bobbers and leeches or jigs and leeches. Musky action was good where the **Manitowish River** enters from **Wild Rice Lake** - lots of nice fish were seen and several fish over 40" were caught. Smallmouth were also active on leeches and crankbaits.

Wild Rice produced a lot of crappie early in June but was fairly slow toward the end of the month. Walleye action picked up considerably on the outside weed edges using 1/16-oz. jigs and leeches or slip bobbers. Weed growth is really up and fishing the outside edges is your only choice for walleye.



Rest produced some good musky action in June and I'm sure it will continue in July. A great musky and walleye lake! Night crawlers always seem to be preferred bait for walleye in July. When fishing **Rest**, fish the wood on the NW end and also the rocks and cribs at 15' to 25' for walleye.

Dead Pike and **Circle Lily** are both dark water lakes and both produce good fish in July - both musky and walleye. Use fluorescent baits for musky and fluorescent jigs with leeches or night crawlers for walleye. Crappies were biting really well the end of June and will continue for a short time in July by the cabbage weed and sunken trees by the shoreline in both lakes.

Good luck and Take a kid fishing!

Bob

Let's Go Fishing

with area guides
JULY FISHING



PRESQUE ISLE - WINCHESTER AREA

Ken Reinicke

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I'm happy I was around to fish in June because the fish were "bangin"! And July should be just as good!

Fishing in the Winchester / Presque Isle area has been very good. Walleyes topping 7 pounds have been brought into several registration stations with **Big Horsehead** and **Presque Isle Lake** producing the biggest Walleyes of the year so far.

Bass action has started with the advent of the warm water, and the Muskies are moving along the shorelines and in the new weedbeds. Crappie action was at it's peak in the middle of the month and the new weedbeds have attracted their summer residents, the panfish. Go fishing, you'll have a great time this month. Here's some hints to help you find the "right" combinations.

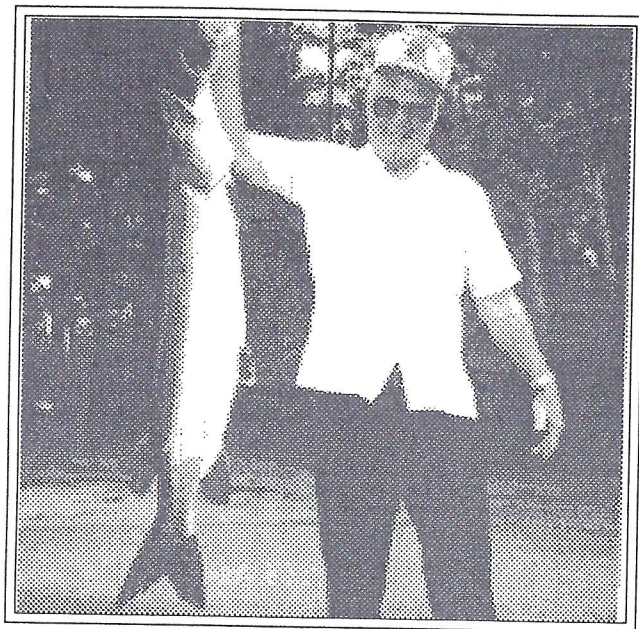
Walleyes have shifted their preference for bait from minnows to leeches in most of the area lakes, but **DON'T** discount those Redtail chubs altogether. I used both baits for Walleyes last week and the bigger fish preferred the minnows! The big fish also preferred an active bait, one that was "snapped" off the bottom, and then allowed to fall back. If you find some Walleyes try it, it could increase the size of your stringer. Another bait that sometimes is forgotten is the "old" Rapala. The Walleyes aren't always tight to the bottom, or in deep water. A number 5 or 7 Rapala cast along a woody or weedy shoreline has accounted for some real good fish. The additional benefit to this method of fishing is the variety of fish you can catch. Northerns, Muskies, Walleyes, and Bass have been caught with those lures, so give it a try. **Oxbow, Tamarack, Rainbow, Annabelle, Wildcat, and Van Vliet** are the lakes I would fish that way.

Another thing, don't be "hooked" on always using traditional methods for fishing a certain species of fish. For example, last week I had some customers that wanted to get some Northerns. Fine. Off we go with Spinner baits and Lindy tails and some spoons. And an hour and a half later, no fish! The day was pretty sunny so we were fishing right in the weedbeds but no action. When you're paid to produce, you try different methods until you get some fish, so back to the baitshop we go and pick up some medium-sized Sucker minnows. Then we get some fluorescent orange, eighth-ounce jigs with number 2 steel hooks, and back on the water. Instead of casting the jigs into the weeds I used the electric motor and backed alongside the weedbeds with the minnow; allowed to bounce along the bottom. We had to clean out the weeds pretty often, but we also found the Northerns. They didn't "smack" the minnow as per usual, they inhaled it like a Walleye! You had to "feel" the bite, let it take some line, and then "bang" it. The point is, if you know there are fish around and they're not hitting your presentation, switch. Try it, you'll like it!

The Largemouth Bass season shouldn't open until the middle of June, when they're done spawning, and hopefully, that will come about next year thanks to the spring conservation meetings. Picking those big females off the spawning beds just doesn't make sense for the future of Bass angling. So if you fish for those Bass this time of year, release them to produce their young and catch them again later in the year. Bass have been active, with the water warming, and **Tamarack** and **Minonk** have produced the most consistent fishing. If the weather is cloudy, or rainy, you can catch them throughout the day, but the sun will drive them to the deep water. Fishing the last hour of the day is almost always the most productive. Thanks to those little "helicopters", the Dragonflies, the mosquito population has been decreased and the fishing is almost tolerable at that time. I don't think you can find a better, more consistent Bass bait than the Mud minnow. The bigger they are, the better. Just put them on a plain, eighth ounce, weedless jig and toss it into the "wood" and you'll get action.

Muskies have really "come to life" so get out the "crankbaits"! Pick a cloudy, windy, rainy day and fish the shoreline or weedbeds where the waves are hitting and start casting. Small Bagleys that are reeled in as fast as you can move them are my preferred lure. Watch it when that bait starts to come up by the boat! That's where 50 per cent of the "hits" occur. Be ready to "back off" on the drag if you get a hit close to the boat! Even a "small" musky can generate a lot of power in close quarters. Remember to wear "polarized" glasses and a casting glove can save a lot of "wear and tear" on your hands. **AND DON'T FORGET** - be mighty careful getting those hooks out of the fish! If you're going to release it, remove the hooks while the fish is in the water. Just use your pliers without holding the fish. If you keep the fish "bonk" it with a club and, even then, be DAMNED careful. Take your time, you've got your limit for the day anyhow.

Ken Reinicke



"If it's a 30-pounder you're after..."

~ ~ ~ **BOULDER JUNCTION AREA** ~ ~ ~

TOM SWANSON'S GUIDE SERVICE

P O Box 144

Boulder Junction, WI 54512 715-385-2168

"July is not the best fishing month." I've heard this statement hundreds of times over the past thirty years. Don't be fooled! Fish still have to eat. The warmer the water the more the fish want to eat.

In July, the only difference is fish are eating at different times. During May and June, we caught more fish during the warm part of the day. But now, we have to change our fishing times to early morning and late evening. Every day there is a major fishing period at sunrise and again at sunset. By fishing these low light periods, you will catch more fish and be able to spend more time, during the day, with the family.

If you're a musky fisherman, July is the beginning of trophy musky time. It's also time to fish those large deep clear-water lakes that are known for producing large musky, year after year. **Trout, White Sand, High and Papoose** are my favorite lakes in July. If it's a 30-pounder you're after, try fishing for suspended muskies. These big fish swim out over open water to feed on cisco. Most of our clear deep lakes are full of cisco, but they like deep water! Don't be afraid to fish water depths of 30' to 50'. These fish are still down only 10' to 15' below the surface, so don't change your lure selection and don't let the bait sink. The fish can see it and they will swim up to strike it. My lure choices for July are Maribou bucktails which are white, brown or black in color. Don't use fluorescent colors in these clear-water lakes!

The smaller- to medium-size lakes we fished in May and June are starting to get pretty weedy. The water color is also starting to darken. Now is the time to use the fluorescent-colored baits in these lakes. Color, in dark water, becomes more important as fish can't see very far and we need to use high-visibility baits.

If you are like me and don't like picking weeds off your bait every day, try fishing the outside of the weed walls. In this way, when you hook a good fish you won't lose it by getting tangled in heavy weeds. You will also become a better fisherman by learning where the weed edges are and how to position your boat to properly fish these weed lines.

In July, the walleye are biting great in **Palmer, Big, North and South Trout Lakes**. **Palmer and Big Lake** have large cabbage beds and most walleye are coming from 7' to 10' of water, along the edge of the weeds.

North and South Trout Lakes are producing some of the best catches of the year. Slip bobbers and leeches floated over the weed bed at about 12' to 15' seem to be producing the largest catches. These same methods work well on catching large perch - some up to 14".

Remember, for the best July fishing for musky, walleye, bass or panfish, get out on the water during the low sunlight time periods and you'll find July can be just as productive as the spring months. And, for quality fishing, whatever the season, practice catch and release all year 'round!

Tom

(Continued from Page 1)

reported in the April issue of the **Junction Newsletter**. In five years, or in 1995, most of the stocked walleye will be 15".

Occasionally, customers want to learn a particular lake. For example, last year a customer wanted to fish Harris Lake in July, as he was vacationing there for a week. Bright sun, hot and light, if any, wind from the NE. All conditions told me that we would catch small, if any, walleye due to the bright day and clear water; but much to our surprise we caught 2 1/2# and 3# walleyes in 6' to 10' of water over coon-tail weeds.

Weeds? Rocks? Wood? Trophy fish or dinner fish?

If we have a bad day it isn't from lack of trying. Remember, Hind-Sight is always 20/20!

Good luck & Take a friend fishing.

Bob

~ ~ ~ **Mercer Area** ~ ~ ~

Phill Graser - Guide

PO Box 99

Mercer, WI 54547 715-476-3570

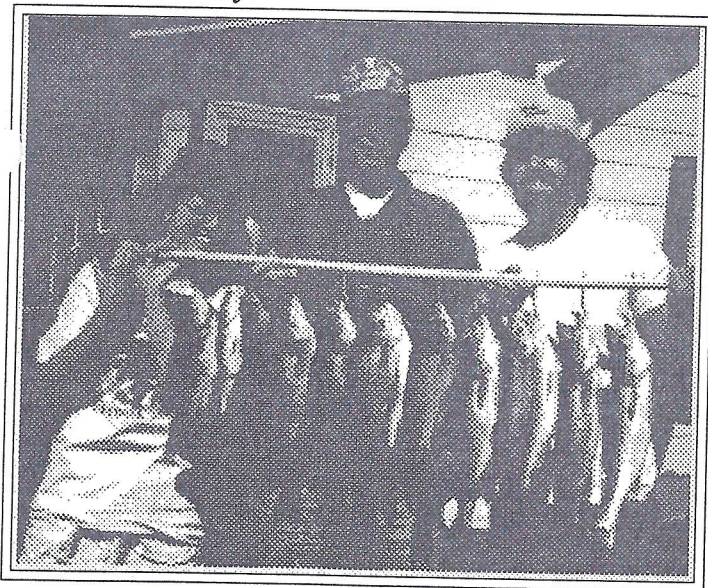
Productive Hours

Usually, the first two weeks in July, in Northern Wisconsin, are hot and dry with mile-high skies. Every fisherman knows that conditions such as these in the middle of summer, are known as "The Dog Days!"

Gramps and Dad told us, "This is the time when the fish "lose" their teeth and there just isn't much sense in going fishin'!"

"Horse Feathers!"

It just isn't so; at least it isn't so if you fish during the "productive hours." Be on the water fishing at 4:30 or 5:00 AM and quit fishing at 9:30 or 10:00 AM. Then, go back out at about 7:00 PM and fish all night if you would like. You'll catch nice-sized fish and be comfortable fishing because you are avoiding the heat during the middle of the day.



The first half of July, I would suggest fishing lakes like Pike, Pine and Fisher, or the north and west sides of the Flowage. These waters have areas that are deeper than average in the Mercer area. Fish any kind of cover in the 10' to 18' depths and you will have action on musky, walleye, bass, and pike.

Mercer, Tank, and Catherine lakes will show good fishing for musky, northern, and bass. Work these waters early or late as these are shallow bodies of water. The cabbage beds in 6' to 10' will be the key at this time in July.

Towards the end of the month, the south east and south

section of the Flambeau Flowage will be good for walleye, musky, northern and smallmouth bass. The key here will be the coon-tail beds in the 5' to 8' deep flat areas. For walleye or jumbo perch, you just can't beat small twister tails fished just over the tops of the weeds. For the musky or northern, medium-sized bucktails, jerk baits or 3/8 oz to 5/8 oz Boonle baits will show a lot of action. Work these lures just over the tops of the weedbeds or stump fields.

The month of July can be an exciting action-packed month for catching fish **IF** only you work those **Productive Hours**.

Keep throwin' and Keep movin'
Your friend in fishin'

Phill

(continued from Page 1)

Generally speaking it's better for all if a lake is maintained at this desirable middle level. For the walleye then, although it is hard to understand why, size limits are not desirable. In fact they are **DETRIMENTAL**.

Walleyes in Northern Wisconsin typically grow at slower rates than reported in other midwestern states (Olson 1958; Carlander and Payne 1977; Schneider 1978). It is also very interesting to look at Steven L. Serns Fish Management Reports on Wolf and Big Crooked Lakes. In the Wolf Lake report (1981), Serns said "The disparity in the effects of a minimum length limit on the walleye population of Wolf and Big Crooked lakes (Serns 1978) which are located within 1500 ft. of each other illustrates the fallacy of imposing uniform size limits statewide, regionally, or even locally. The walleye population of Big Crooked Lake was managed by the same set of regulations as were walleyes in Wolf Lake; however, in Big Crooked Lake the size limit caused significant decreases in growth and condition, and a "stockpiling" of walleyes beneath the minimum length due to the severely reduced rate of growth (Serns 1978)."

Serns also went on to say: "Until a more sophisticated level of fish management is reached whereby length limits may be imposed on walleyes in individual water bodies based on their potential for biological productivity and predator-prey characteristics, a size limit that allows for the best management of the majority of the walleye populations in a region must be employed. In most of the lakes in northern Wisconsin where the majority of the state's walleye lakes are located, walleye growth rates are slow to average and the potential for biological production is low to moderate. Considering this, the present no size limit regulation probably affords the best utilization of the walleye populations in the majority of the state's lakes."

I think it's time that harvest regulations be developed and tailored to individual waters. Not blanket regulations that will not work. Granted - some lakes have been exempted from the 15" walleye size limit due to slow growth, but there are still many lakes out there with the same problem.

~ ~ ~ **LAC DU FLAMBEAU AREA** ~ ~ ~

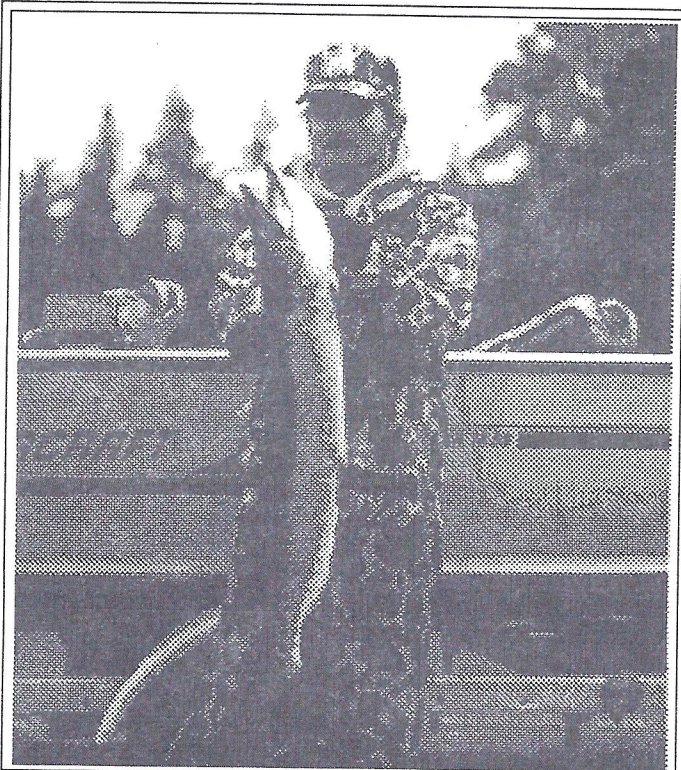
John Beda-Guide

3425 Hwy 47

Lac Du Flambeau, WI 54548 715-588-9150

Fishing for musky has been exceptionally good in June in the Lac du Flambeau area. Above normal temperatures gave us good weed growth and above average water temperatures. **The Flambeau Chain, Ike Walton, White Sand, Little Trout** and the **Sugarbush Chain** all produced good musky action. Musky have been hitting on some of the larger lures like Smitty's "green monster". Remember that the musky size limit on Reservation and borderline lakes is a minimum of 40".

July is always a good month for large fish. Try fishing 30' to 50' of water adjacent to mid lake bars. A lot of your big fish will be suspended around 15' over deep water.



White Sand, Little Trout, Crawling Stone, Fence, Flambeau, Long Interlaken and Pokegama are all good choices for July.

June walleye fishing has been "spotty". Most lakes are so clear that walleye are being taken at deeper depths than usual. Night fishing has been good because of this condition. The best producing lakes at this time are **Pokegama, White Sand, Ike Walton** and **Pike**. Jigs tipped with night crawlers and leeches and slip bobbers are your best bet.

Fishermen are catching a lot of 13" and 14" walleye, but

remember the walleye size limit is 15" on the Reservation and borderline lakes.

In July try fishing the deep coontail edges and mid-lake rock bars around 20'. Dark cloudy days and evenings will produce your best catches.

The panfish are still biting well in the weeds in **Buckskin, Grey Lake, Black Lake** and **Gunlock**.



TIP FOR THE MONTH

Try spraying leeches, worms or minnows with WD-40. A certain amount of fish can be caught out of a school that you would not normally catch. The WD-40 has a lot of other uses around the boat such as the anchor mate, seats, motor, and trailer without getting a foreign odor.

John Beda

**Zebco/US91 Crappie Tournament
Ended June 24th**

Only six tagged crappie were registered from the Manitowish Chain. If you should catch a crappie with a silver US91 tag, either enjoy it for lunch or release for future enjoyment because the value of all tagged crappie is down to **zero!**

Specials of the Month

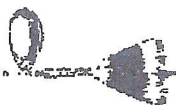
(for Newsletter subscribers only)
PRICES GOOD TIL 7/31/91

St. Croix Musky Rods

5503 H 1-5oz.	6'	\$58.50
5503 MH 3/4-3oz.	6'6"	\$58.50
5503 H -5oz.	6'9"	\$58.50
5503 MH 1/2-2oz.	7'	\$58.50

Nite-Bobbers

GK5BT	Giant Killer	\$5.95
GK5T	Giant Killer Tandem	\$6.95
B5M	Musky Killer	\$4.50
B5MT	Musky Killer Tandem	\$6.00



Musky Killers

Large Grandmas

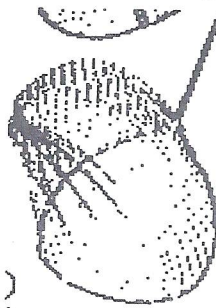
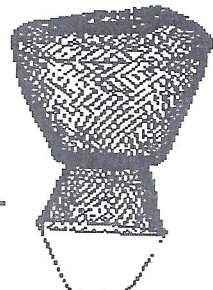
MY - All Purpose 3' Sliding Handle	\$31.00
M-2022 Walleye	\$23.75



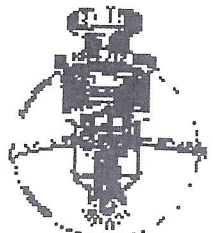
Beckman Nets

Floating Fish Baskets

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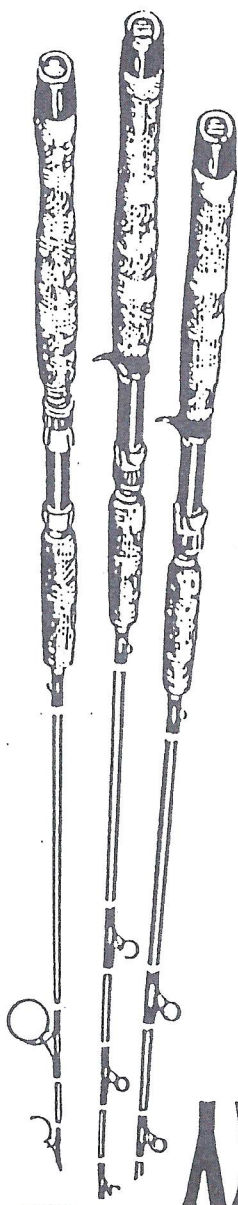
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**THE JUNCTION
NEWSLETTER**

HC 2 Box 228A
Manitowish Waters, WI 54545



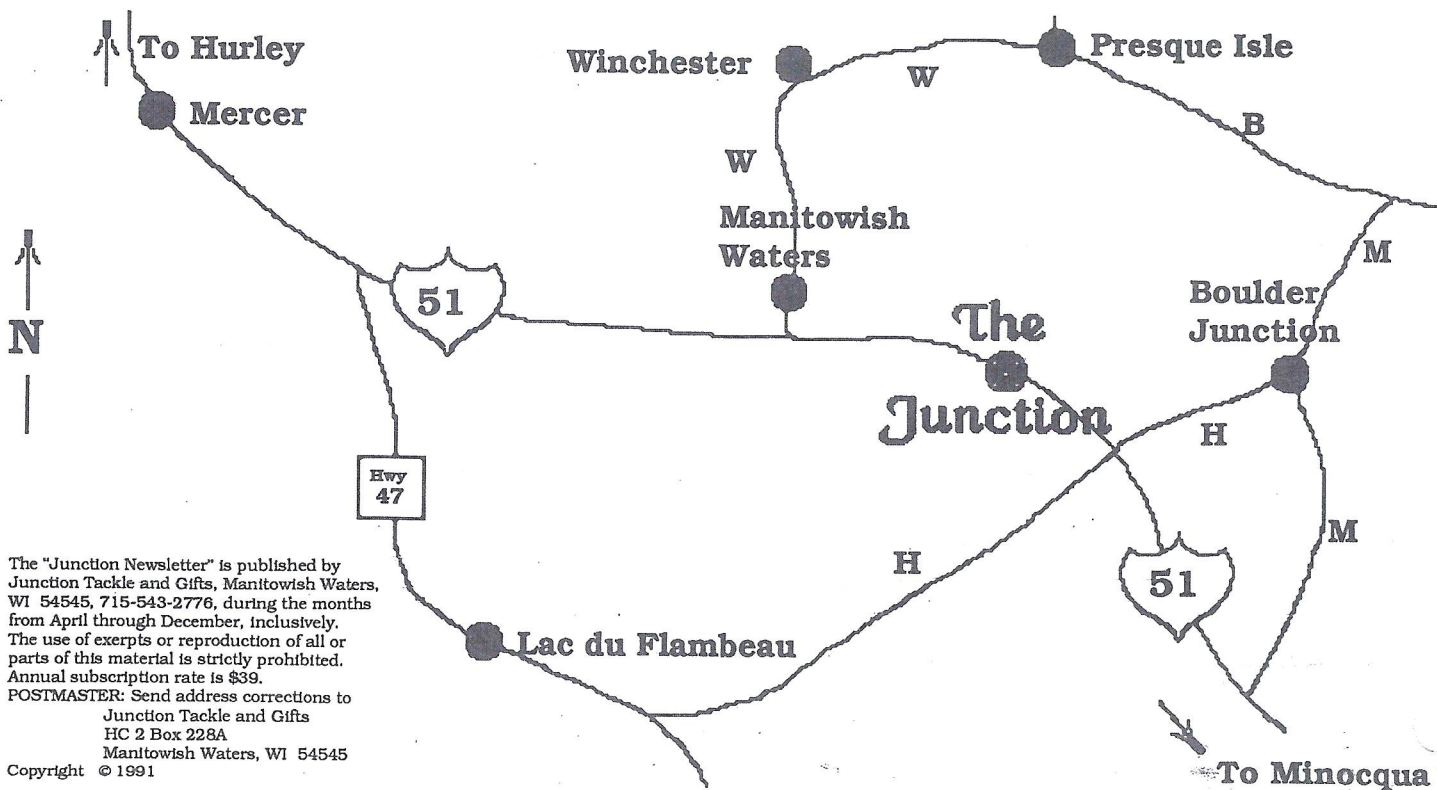
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